IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas E. Donaldson et al.　　Art Unit　: 2171
Serial No. : 09/749,798　　　　　　　　　　Examiner : Cindy Nguyen
Filed　　　 : December 28, 2000
Title　　　 : FILTERING SEARCH RESULTS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF JANUARY 10, 2005

In reply to the office action of January 10, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 14, 16, and 19 being independent. Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for indicating that claims 9-15 and 17-21 are allowed. Applicants note that claims 17 and 18, which are indicated as allowed, depend from rejected independent claim 16. Applicants request clarification as to the standing of claims 17 and 18 in the next communication from the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 16

Claims 1-3, 5, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yagasaki (U.S. 6,125,353). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 16 recite a method (claim 1) and a computer program (claim 16) for searching different data stores based on a classification of a search term that includes, among other features, receiving at least one search term and <u>classifying the search term</u> among at least first and second categories. <u>The classification of the search term is used to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search</u>, where a first electronic information store contains first electronic information associated with at least a first category and a second electronic information store contains second electronic information associated with at least a second category.